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UNCLAS ROME 001437

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

FROM U.S. MISSION TO THE UN AGENCIES IN ROME

STATE FOR NEA/IR AMBASSADOR RAPHEL, IO A/S HOLMES, IO/EDA  
USDA/FAS FOR U/S PENN, ETERPSTRA, MCHAMBLISS, RTILSWORTH AND  
LSCHATZ  
USAID FOR AA/DCHA WINTER, AA/ANE, DCHA/OFDA, D/DCHA/FFP  
LANDIS  
JOINT STAFF FOR JE/J4/J5  
NSC FOR JDWORKEN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [EAGR](#) [AORC](#) [IZ](#) [WFP](#) [IRAQI](#) [FREEDOM](#)

SUBJECT: IRAQ: WFP PROCUREMENT/LOGISTICS UPDATE

REF: (A) BAGHDAD 000188, (B) BAGHDAD 00089, (C) ROME 00983

Sensitive but unclassified -- please handle accordingly.

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Summary  
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1. (SBU) The delivery of a minimum of 2.9 million metric tons of food commodities into Iraq, in the period April-September 2004, represents a significant operational undertaking on the part of both World Food Program (WFP) and the Iraqi Ministry of Trade (MOT). This task will require a carefully calibrated rationalization of all resources - staff, ports, transport, borders, warehouses, etc. WFP suggests that several senior-level MOT officials (with decision-making powers) be detailed to the WFP Iraq Operation in Rome for a period of 2-3 months to: a) rationalize allocation of all commodities under procurement; and b) adjust allocation plans on the basis of complete information on changing circumstances (warehouses, ports, supplier delivery, etc.). The hoped for result is reduced competition for the same resources and capacities. WFP's proposal may merit serious consideration. End summary.

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Background  
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2. (U) US Mission/Rome USAID Humanitarian Assistance Attach Lavelle and USAID Program Specialist Lamade met with Amer Daoudi WFP Senior Logistic officer on April 8. He confirmed that WFP had purchased as of March 31 a total of 1.619 million metric tons of commodities related to the CPA/WFP/MOU January 8, 2004 procurement of buffer stocks and shortfall commodities. Commodities procured (in metric tons-mts) include: rice, 222,500 mts; milk powder, 58,600 mts; salt, 19,670 mts; ghee, 121,500 mts; tea, 24,000 mts; wheat, 897,500 mts; detergent, 56,700 mts; sugar, 201,700 mts; soap, 13,000 mts; and infant formula, 4,800 mts. The tentative supply delivery timeframe is April-June 2004. Note. On the wheat purchase, 325,000 mts was procured from U.S. suppliers. End note.

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Anticipated Oil-for-Food (OFF) food arrivals  
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3. (U) Confirmed OFF scheduled food commodity arrivals for the period March-June 2004 are estimated at 956,427 mts; no arrivals are scheduled after June. OFF food commodities without any confirmation of dispatch arriving during the period March-September 2004 are estimated at 269,646 mts.

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Some of the logistical difficulties as WFP see them  
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4. (SBU) WFP listed the following problem areas:

a) Um Qasir port - looting reportedly goes on day and night and the port is still not, in WFP's view, secure. Moreover, as per Daoudi, there has been a large decline in thru-put. In February 2003, Um Qasir was reportedly handling 500,000-600,000 mts/month. At present monthly thru-put is about half that;

b) ships in ports (Um Qasir, Aqaba) are often taking from four-six weeks to discharge. WFP gave the following example for Um Qasir port. The M/V Anangel Power loaded with 33,000 mts of wheat arrived at port on February 26; grain samples drawn, February 29; samples sent to Baghdad, March 03; results received back on March 07; first line ashore, March

26; same day some insects found and fumigation of holds begin; discharge commences on March 31 afternoon; total discharge as of April 7, 22,618 mts;

c) In Mosul, WFP trucks are presently waiting seven days for offloading to commence;

d) The Iraqi MOT is reportedly going ahead with its own

purchase of 900,000 mts of food commodities (over and above the WFP and OFF commitments described above), which will place additional strain on the already overloaded logistics system;

e) The beginning of June sees the commencement of the wheat harvest in Turkey, Syria and Iraq. This will result in a shortage of transport capacity within the Turkish and Syrian corridors, as well as a shortage in storage capacity in Syria, Turkey and Iraq;

f) the commercial sector and the Coalition Forces are also competing for the same trucking fleets. WFP, which has been paying on average approximately USD 35/mt, is finding it increasingly difficult to find trucks.

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Next steps  
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15. (SBU) WFP proposes the creation of a joint WFP-MOT Logistics cell, to be based in Rome, whereby several senior-level MOT officials (with decision-making powers) would be detailed for a period of 2-3 months to: a) rationalize allocation of all commodities under procurement; and b) adjust allocation plans on the basis of complete information on changing circumstances (warehouses, ports, supplier delivery, etc. The favorable result expected is greatly reduced competition for the same resources and capacities.

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Comment  
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16. (SBU) US Mission/Rome has worked extensively on major emergency operations with Amer Daoudi (Ethiopia, 2000-2001; Afghanistan theater, 2002; and in the Iraq operation, where WFP effectively moved 2 million tons of food supplies in the period April-December 2003) and finds him to be both highly committed and effective. US Mission believes that WFP's proposal merits serious consideration.

17. (U) Minimize considered.  
Cleverley

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